

98. The number of cattle covered by passes for open area that was found grazing in, and impounded from, closed forests, is as given below:—

Northern Division, Kánara	...	...	...	...
Southern do.	...	...	...	...
Western do.	...	...	...	93
Belgaum	...	...	...	1,755
Dhárwár	...	...	...	289
Bijápur	...	...	...	...
Kolába	...	...	...	69
Ratnágiri	...	...	...	...
Total				2,206

99. The fact must, however, be noted that a much larger number of cattle than are impounded enter the closures. Even when they are caught, it is impossible for one or two guards to drive all of them to the pound and a good many consequently escape.

100. Wire-fencing is a good means of protection against cattle. A start was made in this direction during the year, in Kolába, and 541 reels of galvanized barbed-wire were obtained on indent from England, for fencing in some of the exploited *coupes* of 1896-97.

101. To make the closures effective, measures are being taken to introduce wire-fencing in Dhárwár and Bijápur and an indent for the required quantity of barbed wire will be submitted to Government in due course.

(c).—IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST GROWTH.

(1).—*Natural Reproduction.*

(1).—*By Seed.*

102. *Kánara*.—Owing to the early cessation, and in some parts to the bad distribution of the rains, natural reproduction by seed was not as successful as could be expected, although other conditions were naturally favourable in the district. But notwithstanding these disadvantages to combat with, continued measures taken during the past years to prevent fires and cattle from doing any appreciable amount of damage to the pick of the forests, had their own result and the Divisional Officer, Northern Division, Kánara, reports that natural reproduction was on the whole “very fairly successful,” and that it “bids fair to be much more successful in future.” In the Southern Division it was “fair” and in the Western Division “not unsatisfactory.”

103. In the teak-bearing tracts in the Belgaum Division, conditions were favourable for reproduction by seed.

104. Owing to the failure of rain during the latter part of the monsoon natural reproduction by seed did not fare well in Dhárwár; and in Bijápur, the season was almost entirely rainless, and, therefore, reproduction was very unsatisfactory. In Kolába, it has been very slow on account of fires and trespass by cattle. In Ratnágiri, seedlings from fallen seeds have come up in places where the soil is suitable for them to germinate, and the slopes are slowly but steadily becoming covered with vegetation, but on the whole, reproduction by seed there is far from satisfactory.

(2).—*By Coppice.*

105. Coppice-growth is reported to have been satisfactory throughout the Circle except in a comparatively few cases in which the soil, or the stools, have become exhausted.

(2).—*Artificial Regeneration.*

106. The following areas are reported to have been treated under artificial regeneration in the *Northern Division of Kánara*:—

Supa Working-Circle.—Girdling No. II Compartments in Series IV and VIII (9,020 acres):

Gund Working-Circle.—Girdling No. II Compartments in Series X and XI (4,220 acres).